

# *Sketch*

---

*Volume 26, Number 3*

1960

*Article 10*

---

## The Direction

James Wickliff\*

\*Iowa State University

Copyright ©1960 by the authors. *Sketch* is produced by The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress).  
<http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/sketch>

The snake encircled eyes,  
The convulsed horse-tooth scoff  
Look too proud to ask  
For just a brushing off.  
While some raptly polish their masks  
And never see them at all,  
I find less work in hanging  
My mask upon the wall.

*James Wickliff, Sc. & H. Grad.*

## *The Direction*

Knowing the direction from before  
When, with sincere callousness,  
Those who loved me turned me away,  
Does not help now.  
I look back with hunger,  
Longing to be with their love and laughter —  
To hold them close.

Resolved in independence  
I strive, I strain, I stall.  
I fan thick volumes  
And thumb precious pages  
For help.  
Yet I cannot hide from those around me —  
The accusing stares,  
The bony fingers yet point  
The direction.

At the point of parting  
When the final severance is made,  
Can I say in selfless pride;  
Having stabbed with a stubby finger  
In blind decision at this place,  
From here on I go forward.

*James Wickliff, Sc. & H. Grad.*